### Case 16-05163 Doc 1 Filed 02/17/16 Entered 02/17/16 19:08:16 Desc Main Document Page 1 of 21

Fill in this information to identify your case:		
United States Bankruptcy Court for the:		
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS	_	
Case number (if known)	_ Chapter you are filing under:	
	Chapter 7	
	Chapter 11	
	Chapter 12	
	✓ Chapter 13	Check if this an amended filing

#### Official Form 101

### **Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy**

12/15

The bankruptcy forms use you and Debtor 1 to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use you to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, "Do you own a car," the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Pa	t 1: Identify Yourself			
		About Debtor 1:		About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
1.	Your full name			
	Write the name that is on	Santos		Lorena
	your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's	First name	_	First name
	license or passport).	Middle name	-	Middle name
	Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.	Almaraz  Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)	-	Almaraz  Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)
2.	All other names you have used in the last 8 years Include your married or	,		
3.	maiden names.  Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security			
	number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)	xxx-xx-9775		xxx-xx-8825

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	btor 1 Santos Almaraz btor 2 Lorena Almaraz		Case number (if known)
		About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years		✓ I have not used any business name or EINs.	✓ I have not used any business name or EINs.
	Include trade names and doing business as names	Business name(s)	Business name(s)
		EINs	EINs
5.	Where you live		If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:
		213 Whitewater Drive Bolingbrook, IL 60440 Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code	Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code
	Will County  If your mailing address is different from the or above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send notices to you at this mailing address.		County  If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.
		Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code	Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code
6.	Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy	<ul> <li>Check one:</li> <li>✓ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.</li> <li>☐ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)</li> </ul>	Check one:  Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.  □ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

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	btor 1 Santos Almaraz btor 2 Lorena Almaraz				Case number (if known)	
Pa	rt 2: Tell the Court About	Your Bankruptcy	Case			
7.	The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are			n of each, see <i>Notice Required</i> of page 1 and check the approp	by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for E briate box.	3ankruptcy
	choosing to file under	Chapter 7				
		Chapter 11				
		Chapter 12				
		✓ Chapter 13				
8.	How you will pay the fee	about how order. If yo a pre-print	you may pay. Typour attorney is sub ed address.	pically, if you are paying the fe omitting your payment on your	theck with the clerk's office in your local court for e yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's che behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card option, sign and attach the Application for Individual	eck, or money or check with
		The Filing I request but is not that applie	Fee in Installmen that my fee be warequired to, waive se to your family si	ats (Official Form 103A).  aived (You may request this o your fee, and may do so only ize and you are unable to pay	ption only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a if your income is less than 150% of the official pothe fee in installments). If you choose this option and (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition	a judge may, overty line , you must fill
9.	Have you filed for bankruptcy within the	<b></b> ✓ No.				
	last 8 years?	Yes.				
		Distri	ct	When	Case number	
		Distri	ct	When	Case number	
		Distri	ct	When	Case number	
10.	Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?	✓ No ☐ Yes.				
		Debte	or		Relationship to you	
		Distri	ct	When	Case number, if known	
		Debte	or		Relationship to you	
		Distri	ct	When	Case number, if known	
11.	Do you rent your residence?	<b>W</b> 140.	No. Go to line	e 12. nitial Statement About an Evict	ainst you and do you want to stay in your resider ion Judgment Against You (Form 101A) and file	

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	tor 1 tor 2	Santos Almaraz Lorena Almaraz		Case number (if known)			
Part	t <b>3</b> :	Report About Any Bu	sinesses `	You Own as a Sole Proprietor			
12.	of ar	ou a sole proprietor by full- or part-time ness?	<b>№</b> No.	Go to Part 4.			
	busi	11033	☐ Yes.	Name and location of business			
		e proprietorship is a					
	an in sepa as a	less you operate as dividual, and is not a rate legal entity such corporation, ership, or LLC.		Name of business, if any			
	sole	have more than one proprietorship, use a		Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code			
		rate sheet and attach his petition.		Check the appropriate box to describe your business:			
				Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))			
				Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))			
				Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))			
				Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))			
				None of the above			
13.	Chap Bank	ou filing under oter 11 of the cruptcy Code and are a small business or?	If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set approp deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, stateme operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the proce in 11 U.S.C. 1116(1)(B).				
	For a	definition of <i>small</i>	<b>✓</b> No.	I am not filing under Chapter 11.			
	busir	ness debtor, see 11 C. § 101(51D).	☐ No.	I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.			
			☐ Yes.	I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.			
Part	t 4:	Report if You Own or	Have Any	Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention			
r a	prop alleg of in	ou own or have any erty that poses or is ed to pose a threat iminent and	✓ No.  Yes.	What is the hazard?			
		tifiable hazard to ic health or safety?					
	Or do	o you own any erty that needs ediate attention?		If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?			
	peris lives or a	example, do you own hable goods, or tock that must be fed, building that needs nt repairs?		Where is the property?  Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code			
				Number, Street, Oity, State & Zip Code			

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	tor 1 Santos Almaraz tor 2 Lorena Almaraz		_	occument rage 5	J		Case number (if kn	own)
art	5: Explain Your Efforts t	to Re	eceive a Briefing Abo	out Credit Counseling				
		Abo	out Debtor 1:			Abo	out Debtor 2 (Spou	se Only in a Joint Case):
15.	Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.	You	counseling agency	g from an approved credit y within the 180 days before I cy petition, and I received a oletion.		You	counseling agen	ing from an approved credit cy within the 180 days before I filed petition, and I received a certificate of
	The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before			e certificate and the payment u developed with the agency.				ne certificate and the payment plan, if eloped with the agency.
	you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to		counseling agency	g from an approved credit y within the 180 days before I cy petition, but I do not have apletion.			counseling agen	ing from an approved credit cy within the 180 days before I filed petition, but I do not have a apletion.
	file.  If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you			r you file this bankruptcy file a copy of the certificate and /.	ı			er you file this bankruptcy petition, you of the certificate and payment plan, if
will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.	you paid, and your creditors can begin		services from an a unable to obtain th days after I made r	d for credit counseling pproved agency, but was nose services during the 7 my request, and exigent rit a 30-day temporary waiver			from an approve those services d request, and exig	ted for credit counseling services d agency, but was unable to obtain uring the 7 days after I made my gent circumstances merit a 30-day or of the requirement.
			To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances				attach a separate to obtain the briefi before you filed fo	by temporary waiver of the requirement, sheet explaining what efforts you made ng, why you were unable to obtain it r bankruptcy, and what exigent quired you to file this case.
			required you to file t			Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.		
			briefing before you f If the court is satisfic still receive a briefin You must file a certi	ir reasons for not receiving a filed for bankruptcy. ed with your reasons, you must g within 30 days after you file. If			receive a briefing file a certificate fro copy of the payme	efied with your reasons, you must still within 30 days after you file. You must om the approved agency, along with a ent plan you developed, if any. If you do se may be dismissed.
			may be dismissed.	you do not do so, your case				he 30-day deadline is granted only for ed to a maximum of 15 days.
			only for cause and it days.	e 30-day deadline is granted s limited to a maximum of 15			Lam not requires	to receive a briefing about credit
		Ш	credit counseling	o receive a briefing about because of:		Ш	counseling beca	I to receive a briefing about credit use of:
			☐ Incapacity.	I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.			Incapacity.	I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
			☐ Disability.	My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.			☐ Disability.	My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
			Active duty.	I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.			Active duty.	I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.
			briefing about credit	re not required to receive a counseling, you must file a credit counseling with the				are not required to receive a briefing seling, you must file a motion for waiver g with the court.

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		Santos Almaraz Lorena Almaraz					Case	e number (if knov	un)	
Pa	rt 6: A	nswer These Ques	tions for Re	porting Purp	nses				"",	
16.		kind of debts do	16a.	Are your deb	ts primari	ly consumer d	ebts? Consumer debts	are defined in	11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an	
				individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."  No. Go to line 16b.						
		·		✓ Yes. Go to line 17.						
			16b.	Are your debi	ts primari	ly business de	<b>bts?</b> Business debts are hrough the operation of	e debts that yo	u incurred to obtain	
				No. Go to I	ine 16c.		modgit the operation of	the business o	r investment.	
				Yes. Go to						
			16c.			ou owe that are	not consumer debts or	business debt	3	
<b>17</b> .	Are you	u filing under er 7?	✓ No.	am not filing	under Cha	pter 7. Go to lir	e 18.			
	after ar proper admini are pai be avai	estimate that ny exempt ty is excluded and strative expenses d that funds will ilable for ution to unsecured rs?	Yes. I	am filing undo expenses are p No Yes	er Chapter paid that fu	7. Do you estir unds will be ava	nate that after any exemilable to distribute to uns	npt property is o	excluded and administrative ors?	
18.		any Creditors do iimate that you	v 1-49 50-99 100-199 200-999			5	.000-5,000 001-10,000 0,001-25,000	and the second	25,001-50,000 50,001-100,000 More than100,000	
19.	How more estimated be worth	uch do you e your assets to th?	\$100,00	,000 - \$100,000 1 - \$500,000 1 - \$1 million		\$ \$	1,000,001 - \$10 million 10,000,001 - \$50 million 50,000,001 - \$100 million 100,000,001 - \$500 million	n	\$500,000,001 - \$1 billion \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion More than \$50 billion	
20.	How mu estimate to be?	uch do you e your liabilities	<b>1</b> \$100,00	,000 - \$100,000 1 - \$500,000 1 - \$1 million		\$ \$!	1,000,001 - \$10 million 10,000,001 - \$50 million 10,000,001 - \$100 million 100,000,001 - \$500 million	n il	\$500,000,001 - \$1 billion \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion More than \$50 billion	
Part	7: Sig	ın Below								
For	you		If I have cho United State If no attorne document, I I request reli I understand	es en to file und es Code. I und y represents r have obtained ief in accordar I making a fals case can resul 571. Almaraz maraz	der Chapte lerstand th me and I d d and read nce with th	er 7, I am aware e relief available id not pay or ago the notice reque e chapter of title	that I may proceed, if e e under each chapter, al ree to pay someone whired by 11 U.S.C. § 342 e 11, United States Code	eligible, under Cond I choose to o is not an atto (b).  e, specified in oney or proper to 20 years, or conditional araz	Chapter 7, 11,12, or 13 of title 11, proceed under Chapter 7.  The	
/			Executed on	February MM / DD /	<b>17, 2016</b> YYYY		Executed on	February 1	7, 2016 (YY	

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Debtor 1 Santos A Lorena A			Cas	e number (if known)
For your attorney, if y represented by one If you are not represe	ented by	under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, Unifor which the person is eligible. I also certify 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D)	ted States Code, and have enthat I have delivered to the opportunity applies, certify that I have r	informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed explained the relief available under each chapter debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § no knowledge after an inquiry that the information
an attorney, you do r to file this page.	not need	in the schedules filed with the petition is inco  /s/ Michael Choi  Signature of Attorney for Debtor	vrrect Date	February 17, 2016 MM / DD / YYYY
		Michael Choi Printed name Choi and Associates Ltd.		
		Firm name 921 Oakton Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code		
		Contact phone (847) 434-0100	Email address	puter808@sbcglobal.net

Bar number & State

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Fill in this inform	nation to identify you	r case:			
Debtor 1	Santos Almaraz				
Debior	First Name	Middle Name Last Name			
Debtor 2	Lorena Almaraz				
(Spouse if, filing)	First Name	Middle Name Last Name			
United States Ban	nkruptcy Court for the:	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS			
Officed States Dai	ikiupicy Court for the.	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IEEENOIS			
Case number					
(if known)				_	if this is an
				ameno	led filing
Official Form	1060				
Official Form					
Schedule	D: Creditors	Who Have Claims Secure	d by Propert	У	12/15
needed, copy the Ad known).	Iditional Page, fill it out,	two married people are filing together, both are eq number the entries, and attach it to this form. On t			
	nave claims secured by				
	this box and submit the	nis form to the court with your other schedules.	You have nothing else	to report on this form.	
Yes. Fill in	all of the information I	pelow.			
Part 1: List All	Secured Claims				
•	laims. If a creditor has m	ore than one secured claim, list the creditor separately	for Column A	Column B	Column C
each claim. If more t	than one creditor has a pa	articular claim, list the other creditors in Part 2. As muc	h Amount of claim	Value of collateral	Unsecured
as possible, list the c	claims in alphabetical orde	er according to the creditor's name.	Do not deduct the value of collateral.	that supports this claim	portion If any
Anselmo 8	& Linderg				
Oliver LLC		Describe the property that secures the claim:	\$208,139.00	\$0.00	\$208,139.00
Creditor's Name					
1771 W Die	ahl #120	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that			
Naperville	-	apply.			
	City, State & Zip Code	☐ Contingent ☐ Unliquidated			
rumber, offeet,	Oity, State & Zip Gode	☐ Disputed			
Who owes the del	bt? Check one.	Nature of lien. Check all that apply.			
Debtor 1 only		☐ An agreement you made (such as mortgage or se	cured		
Debtor 2 only		car loan)			
■ Debtor 1 and Deb	btor 2 only	☐ Statutory lien (such as tax lien, mechanic's lien)			
☐ At least one of the	e debtors and another	☐ Judgment lien from a lawsuit			
☐ Check if this cla	im relates to a	Other (including a right to offset)			
community deb	ot				
Date debt was incu	rred	Last 4 digits of account number h774			
	-		<del></del>		
Will Count	tv Sheriff -				
County An	inex	Describe the property that secures the claim:	Unknown	\$0.00	Unknown
Creditor's Name		02-09-426-029-0000			
E7 N Ottov	vo Boom 201	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that			
Joliet, IL 6	va, Room 201	apply.			
	City, State & Zip Code	Contingent			
Number, Street,	City, State & Zip Code	☐ Unliquidated ☐ Disputed			
Who owes the del	bt? Check one.	Nature of lien. Check all that apply.			
Debtor 1 only		☐ An agreement you made (such as mortgage or se	cured		
Debtor 2 only		car loan)	-		
■ Debtor 1 and Deb	btor 2 only	☐ Statutory lien (such as tax lien, mechanic's lien)			
☐ At least one of the debtors and another ☐ Judgment lien from a lawsuit					
☐ Check if this cla		Other (including a right to offset)			
community deb					
Date debt was incu	rred	Last 4 digits of account number			

Schedule D: Creditors Who Have Claims Secured by Property

Official Form 106D

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Debtor 1	Santos Almaraz			Case number (if know)				
	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name					
Debtor 2	Lorena Almaraz							
	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name					
Add the	dollar value of your entr	ries in Column A on this	page. Write that number	here: \$208,139.00				
	the last page of your for at number here:	rm, add the dollar value	totals from all pages.	\$208,139.00				
Part 2:	List Others to Be No	tified for a Debt That	t You Already Listed					
to collect	Part 2: List Others to Be Notified for a Debt That You Already Listed  Jee this page only if you have others to be notified about your bankruptcy for a debt that you already listed in Part 1. For example, if a collection agency is trying o collect from you for a debt you owe to someone else, list the creditor in Part 1, and then list the collection agency here. Similarly, if you have more than one creditor for any of the debts that you listed in Part 1, list the additional creditors here. If you do not have additional persons to be notified for any debts in Part 1, lo not fill out or submit this page.							
Na	ame Address							
-N	ONE-		On	which line in Part 1 did you enter the creditor?				
			Las	st 4 digits of account number				

Fill in this info	rmation to identify your	case:			
Debtor 1	Santos Almaraz First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		
Debtor 2 (Spouse if, filling)	Lorena Almaraz First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		
United States B	ankruptcy Court for the:	NORTHERN DISTRICT	OF ILLINOIS		
Case number (if known)				_	Check if this is an amended filing
Official For Declara	<del></del>	n Individual	Debtor's Sched	ules	12/15
If two married p	people are filing together	, both are equally resp	onsible for supplying correct info	ormation.	
obtaining mone years, or both.		i connection with a ban	s or amended schedules. Makin kruptcy case can result in fines		
Did you p	ay or agree to pay some	one who is NOT an atto	rney to help you fill out bankrup	otcy forms?	
■ No					
☐ Yes.	Name of person				tition Preparer's Notice, ature (Official Form 119)
	alty of perjury, I declare re true and correct.	that I have read the sur	nmary and schedules filed with t	this declaration and	
Santo	ntos Almaraz os Almaraz ure of Debtor 1		X /s/ Lorena Almara Lorena Almaraz Signature of Debtor 2		u Almon
Date	February 17, 2016		Date February 1	7, 2016	

# Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

#### This notice is for you if:

You are an individual filing for bankruptcy, and

Your debts are primarily consumer debts. Consumer debts are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

### The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under one of four different chapters of Bankruptcy Code:

Chapter 7 - Liquidation

Chapter 11 - Reorganization

Chapter 12 - Voluntary repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

Chapter 13 - Voluntary repayment plan for individuals with regular income

You should have an attorney review your decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of chapter.

Chapter 7:	Liquidation
\$245	filing fee
\$75	administrative fee
+ \$15	trustee surcharge
\$335	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial difficulty preventing them from paying their debts and who are willing to allow their nonexempt property to be used to pay their creditors. The primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist for particular debts, and liens on property may still be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and you receive a discharge, some debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible to pay:

most taxes;

most student loans;

domestic support and property settlement obligations;

most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

fraud or theft:

fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;

intentional injuries that you inflicted; and

death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A–1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form —the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2). The calculations on the form— sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If

your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

#### **Chapter 11: Reorganization**

\$1,167 filing fee

+ \$550 administrative fee \$1.717 total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

#### **Read These Important Warnings**

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

### Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	\$200	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	\$275	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

# Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	\$235	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	\$310	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

domestic support obligations,

most student loans,

certain taxes,

debts for fraud or theft,

debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,

most criminal fines and restitution obligations,

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,

certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and

certain long-term secured debts.

#### Warning: File Your Forms on Time

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to: <a href="http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy\_forms.html#procedure.">http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy\_forms.html#procedure.</a>

#### Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences

If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.

All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

#### Make sure the court has your mailing address

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

### Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days *before* you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from: http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc\_approved.html.

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to: http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/ApprovedCreditAndDebtCounselors.aspx.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHAPTER 13 DEBTORS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS

#### (Court-Approved Retention Agreement, Revised as of 4/20/2015)

Chapter 13 gives debtors important rights, such as the right to keep property that could otherwise be lost through repossession or foreclosure, but Chapter 13 also puts burdens on debtors, such as the burden of making complete and truthful disclosures of their financial situation. It is important for debtors who file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy case to understand their rights and responsibilities in bankruptcy. In this connection, the advice of an attorney is often crucial. Debtors are entitled to certain services from their attorneys, but debtors also have responsibilities to their attorneys. In order to assure that debtors and their attorneys understand their rights and responsibilities in the Chapter 13 process, the judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois have approved this agreement, setting out the rights and responsibilities of both debtors in Chapter 13 and their attorneys, including how their attorneys will be paid for their services in the Chapter 13 case. By signing this agreement, debtors and their attorneys accept these responsibilities.

The Bankruptcy Code may require a debtor's attorney to provide the debtor with certain documents and agreements at the start of the representation. The terms of this court-approved agreement take the place of any conflicting provision in an earlier agreement. This agreement cannot be modified in any way by other agreements. Any provision of another agreement between the debtors and the attorney that conflicts with this agreement is void.

#### A. BEFORE THE CASE IS FILED

#### THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:

- 1. Discuss with the attorney the debtor's objectives in filing the case.
- 2. Provide the attorney with full, accurate and timely information, financial and otherwise, including properly documented proof of income.

#### THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:

- 1. Personally counsel the debtor regarding the advisability of filing either a Chapter 13 or a Chapter 7 case, discuss both procedures (as well as non-bankruptcy options) with the debtor, and answer the debtor's questions.
- 2. Personally explain to the debtor that the attorney is being engaged to represent the debtor on all matters arising in the case, as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule, and explain how and when the attorney's fees and the trustee's fees are determined and paid.
- 3. Personally review with the debtor and sign the completed petition, plan, statements, and schedules, as well as all amendments thereto, whether filed with the petition or later. (The schedules may be initially prepared with the help of clerical or paralegal staff of the attorney's office, but personal attention of the attorney is required for the review and signing.)
- 4. Timely prepare and file the debtor's petition, plan, statements, and schedules.

- 5. Explain to the debtor how, when, and where to make all necessary payments, including both payments that must be made directly to creditors and payments that must be made to the Chapter 13 trustee, with particular attention to housing and vehicle payments.
- 6. Advise the debtor of the need to maintain appropriate insurance.

#### B. AFTER THE CASE IS FILED

#### THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:

- 1. Make the required payments to the trustee and to whatever creditors are being paid directly, or, if required payments cannot be made, to notify the attorney immediately.
- 2. Appear punctually at the meeting of creditors (also called the "341 meeting") with recent proof of income and a picture identification card. (If the identification card does not include the debtor's social security number, the debtor must also bring to the meeting a social security card.) The debtor must be present in time for check-in and when the case is called for the actual examination.
- 3. Notify the attorney of any change in the debtor's address or telephone number.
- 4. Inform the attorney of any wage garnishments or liens or levies on assets that occur or continue after the filing of the case.
- 5. Contact the attorney immediately if the debtor loses employment, has a significant change in income, or experiences any other significant change in financial situation (such as serious illness, marriage, divorce or separation, lottery winnings, or an inheritance).
- 6. Notify the attorney if the debtor is sued or wishes to file a lawsuit (including divorce.)
- 7. Inform the attorney if any tax refunds to which the debtor is entitled are seized or not received when due from the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue.
- 8. Contact the attorney before buying, refinancing, or selling real property, and before entering into any loan agreement.
- 9. Supply the attorney with copies of all tax returns filed while the case is pending.

#### THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:

- 1. Advise the debtor of the requirement to attend the meeting of creditors, and notify the debtor of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
- 2. Inform the debtor that the debtor must be punctual and, in the case of a joint filing, that both spouses must appear at the same meeting.
- 3. Provide knowledgeable legal representation for the debtor at the meeting of creditors (in time for check-in and the actual examination) and, unless excused by the trustee, for the confirmation hearing.
- 4. If the attorney will be employing another attorney to attend the 341 meeting or any court hearing, personally explain to the debtor in advance, the role and identity of the other attorney

and provide the other attorney with the file in sufficient time to review it and properly represent the debtor.

- 5. Timely submit to the Chapter 13 trustee properly documented proof of income for the debtor, including business reports for self-employed debtors.
- 6. Timely respond to objections to plan confirmation and, where necessary, prepare, file, and serve an amended plan.
- 7. Timely prepare, file, and serve any necessary statements, amended statements, and schedules and any change of address, in accordance with information provided by the debtor.
- 8. Monitor all incoming case information (including, but not limited to, Order Confirming Plan, Notice of Intent to Pay Claims, and 6-month status reports) for accuracy and completeness. Contact the trustee promptly regarding any discrepancies.
- 9. Be available to respond to the debtor's questions throughout the term of the plan.
- 10. Prepare, file, and serve timely modifications to the plan after confirmation, when necessary, including modifications to suspend, lower, or increase plan payments.
- 11. Prepare, file, and serve necessary motions to buy or sell property and to incur debt.
- 12. Object to improper or invalid claims.
- 13. Timely respond to the Chapter 13 trustee's motions to dismiss the case, such as for payment default, or unfeasibility, and to motions to increase the percentage payment to unsecured creditors.
- 14. Timely respond to motions for relief from stay.
- 15. Prepare, file, and serve all appropriate motions to avoid liens.
- 16. Provide any other legal services necessary for the administration of the case.

## C. TERMINATION OR CONVERSION OF THE CASE AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER APPROVING FEES AND EXPENSES

- 1. Approved fees and expenses paid under the provisions set out below are generally not refundable in the event that the case is dismissed prior to its completion, unless the dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney to comply with the duties set out in this agreement. If such a dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney, the court may order a refund of fees on motion by the debtor.
- 2. If the case is dismissed after approval of the fees and expenses but before payment of all allowed fees and expenses, the order entered by the Bankruptcy Court allowing the fees and expenses is not a judgment against the debtor for the unpaid fees and expenses based on contract law or otherwise.
- 3. If the case is converted to a case under chapter 7 after approval of the fees and expenses under this agreement but before the payment of all fees and expenses, the attorney will be entitled to an administrative claim in the chapter 7 case for any unpaid fees and expenses, pursuant to section 726(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, plus any conversion fee the attorney pays on behalf of the debtor.

#### D. RETAINERS AND PREVIOUS PAYMENTS

1. The attorney may receive a retainer or other payment before filing the case but may not receive fees directly from the debtor after the filing of the case. Unless the following provision is checked and completed, any retainer received by the attorney will be treated as a security retainer, to be placed in the attorney's client trust account until approval of a fee application by the court.

□The attorney seeks to have the retainer received by the attorney treated as an advance payment retainer, which allows the attorney to take the retainer into income immediately. The attorney hereby provides the following further information and representations:

- (a) The special purpose for the advance payment retainer and why it is advantageous to the debtor is as follows:
- (b) The retainer will not be held in a client trust account and will become property of the attorney upon payment and will be deposited into the attorney's general account;
- (c) The retainer is a flat fee for the services to be rendered during the chapter 13 case and will be applied for such services without the need for the attorney to keep detailed hourly time records for the specific services performed for the debtor;
- (d) Any portion of the retainer that is not earned or required for expenses will be refunded to the client; and
- (e) The attorney is unwilling to represent the debtor without receiving an advanced payment retainer because of the nature of the chapter 13 case, the fact that the great majority of services for such case are performed prior to its filing, and the risks associated with the representation of debtors in bankruptcy cases in general.
- 2. In any application for compensation the attorney must disclose to the court any fees or other compensation paid by the debtor to the attorney for any reason within the one year before the case filing.

#### E. CONDUCT AND DISCHARGE

- 1. *Improper conduct by the attorney*. If the debtor disputes the sufficiency or quality of the legal services provided or the amount of the fees charged by the attorney, the debtor may file an objection with the court and request a hearing.
- 2. *Improper conduct by the debtor*. If the attorney believes that the debtor is not complying with the debtor's responsibilities under this agreement or is otherwise engaging in improper conduct, the attorney may apply for a court order allowing the attorney to withdraw from the case.
- 3. Discharge of the attorney. The debtor may discharge the attorney at any time.

#### F. ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

- 1. Any attorney retained to represent a debtor in a Chapter 13 case is responsible for representing the debtor on all matters arising in the case unless otherwise ordered by the court. For all of the services outlined above, the attorney will be paid a flat fee of \$0.00
- 2. In addition, the debtor will pay the filing fee required in the case of \$310.00
- 3. Before signing this agreement, the attorney has received, \$<u>0.00</u>

toward the flat fee, leaving a balance due of \$0.00; and \$0.00 for expenses,

leaving a balance due for the filing fee of \$0.00

4. In extraordinary circumstances, such as extended evidentiary hearings or appeals, the attorney may apply to the court for additional compensation for these services. Any such application must be accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, the time expended, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified of the right to appear in court to object.

Date:February 17, 2016	
Signed:	
/s/ Santos Almaraz	/s/ Michael Choi
Santos Almaraz	Michael Choi
	Attorney for the Debtor(s)
/s/ Lorena Almaraz	•
Lorena Almaraz	
Debtor(s)	
Do not sign this agreement if the amou	ints are blank.
	Local Bankruptcy Form 23c

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#### United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Illinois

Santos Almaraz Lorena Almaraz

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

13

#### VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX

Number of Creditors:

3

The above-named Debtor(s) hereby verifies that the list of creditors is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge.

Date: February 17, 2016

/s/ Santos Almaraz

Santos Almaraz Signature of Debtor

Date: February 17, 2016

/s/ Lorena Almaraz

Lorena Almaraz
Signature of Debtor

- Joseph

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Best Case Bankruptcy

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